

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A medical capsule comprising:
2 a) a housing having an interior space with a cargo bay area;
3 b) a transceiver enclosed within said housing;
4 c) at least one ultrasonic transducer electrically connected to the transceiver;
5 d) a power supply enclosed with the housing and electrically connected to the
6 transceiver; and,
7 e) a microprocessor unit for data processing and control, said microprocessor being
8 electrically connected to the transceiver.

1 2. The capsule of Claim 1, further comprising within the cargo bay area a payload
2 selected from the group consisting of medical diagnostic devices, devices for treating a
3 medical condition and visualizing apparatus.

1 3. The capsule of Claim 2, wherein the medical diagnostic devices include at least one
2 microlaboratory device for analyzing body fluids for detecting and/or measuring blood,
3 mineral, toxins and/or microorganisms.

1 4. The capsule of Claim 3, wherein the microlaboratory device is a microfluidic
2 device.

1 5. The capsule of Claim 2, wherein the medical diagnostic device includes a
2 microphone or temperature-measuring device.

1 6. The capsule of Claim 2, wherein the device for treating a medical condition
2 comprises a medically efficacious material and means responsive to a signal for expelling the
3 medically efficacious material from the capsule.

1 7. The capsule of Claim 6, wherein the medically efficacious material comprises a
2 medicament selected from the group consisting of antibiotic, antiviral compounds,
3 chemotherapeutic agents, nutriments, radioactive isotopes, dyes, tracers, radio-opaque
4 materials, growth factors, hormones and steroids.

1 8. The capsule of Claim 6, wherein the visualizing apparatus comprises an optical
2 camera and a light source.

1 9. The capsule of Claim 8, wherein the light source is a LED or a flash lamp.

1 10. The capsule of Claim 1, including an array of ultrasonic transducers to provide
2 omni-directional coverage operable in the range of from about 5 MHz to about 20 MHz.

1 11. The capsule of Claim 10, wherein at least six ultrasonic transducers are included
2 in the array.

1 12. The capsule of Claim 1, wherein the housing is configured and dimensioned so as
2 to be ingestible and/or implantable in a human body.

1 13. The capsule of Claim 2, further comprising a signal interface between the
2 microprocessor and the payload.

1 14. A system for wireless communication with a transceiver within a living body, the
2 system comprising:

- 3 a) at least one capsule enclosing at least one omni-directional, two-way ultrasonic
- 4 transducer array connected to a transceiver, a power supply, and a microprocessor; and,
- 5 b) means positioned external to the body for transmitting and receiving ultrasonic
- 6 signals to and from the capsule.

1 15. The system of Claim 14, wherein the capsule further comprises a payload selected
2 from the group consisting of medical diagnostic devices, devices for treating a medical
3 condition and visualizing apparatus.

1 16. The system of Claim 14, further comprising at least two capsules having means
2 for ultrasonic communication with each other.

1 17. The system of Claim 14, wherein the means external to the body further
2 comprises means for transmitting radio frequency electromagnetic signals and the system
3 further comprises a remote monitoring station for receiving said radio frequency
4 electromagnetic signals.

1 18. The system of Claim 14, wherein the capsule further comprises an ultrasonic
2 pulse emitter for generating a plurality of ultrasonic imaging pulses and the means positioned
3 external to the body further comprises means for generating an image from said ultrasonic
4 imaging pulses.

1 19. A method for medical monitoring of a living body comprising:

2 a) positioning a capsule within the body, said capsule including enclosing at least one
3 omni-directional, two-way ultrasonic transducer array connected to a transceiver, a power
4 supply, and a microprocessor;

5 b) positioning a least one external transceiver in proximity to an exterior surface of the
6 body; and,

7 c) transmitting at least one ultrasonic signal between the at least one external
8 transceiver and the ultrasonic transducer array in the capsule.

1 20. The method of Claim 19, further comprising the step of measuring a physiological
2 condition within the body, converting information about said physiological condition into a
3 data stream, and transmitting said data stream via a signal to a position outside the body.

1 21. The method of Claim 20, wherein the signal is an ultrasonic signal received by the
2 external transceiver.

1 22. The method of Claim 19, wherein multiple external transceivers are attached to
2 the exterior surface of the body at spaced apart respective positions.

1 23. The method of Claim 22, wherein the multiple external transceivers provide
2 continuous tracking of the capsule's position within the body.

1 24. The method of Claim 19, wherein said medical monitoring comprises monitoring
2 of one or more of heart beat rate, breathing rate, body temperature, pH, or presence of blood,
3 toxin, microorganisms, minerals or salts.